THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) States of Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa and Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar Island, Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, and Pondicherry have yet to specify Special Courts under the provisions of the new Act.

The Governments of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland have not specified the special Courts on the ground that generally there are no cases of atrocities.

The Government of Goa has intimated that it is awaiting the concurrence of its High Court for specifying the Special Courts.

Interim replies have been received from the Governments of Bihar, Meghalaya and Orissa stating that they are taking necessary action in this regard.

The Government of Mizoram has not sent any reply.

The Act does not extend to the State of Jammu & Kashmir.

The Administrations of Anadaman & Nicobar Islands, Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, and Pondicherry could not specify Special Courts for the reason that the powers of State Government were delegated to them by the Ministry of Home Affairs very recently.

The Governments of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland have been told that they have to specify Special Courts irrespective of whether there is any reported case of atrocity or not. The other State Governments and Union Territory Admns. have been advised to complete action for specifying Special Courts without further loss of time.

Rejection of compensation to the victims of Island Express

578. SHRI N.E. BALARAM :
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that compensation claims of several bereaved families have been rejected by the *ad-hoc* claims Commissioner appointed by Government to enquire into and determine claims arising out of the tragic accident in 1988 of the Island Express in the Ashtamudi Lake;

(b) if so, the number of persons killed in the accident, number of claims made and the number of claims to which compensation has been awarded; and

(c) the details of the claims rejected/pending for decision and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 103 passengers were killed and 114 claims were preferred for compensation. Compensation was awarded in 90 claims cases for 86 deaths.

(c) No claims are pending. 24 claims for 17 deaths were dismissed as either the claimants were not dependents as per provisions of the Indian Railways Act, 1890 or the claims were rival/duplicate.